The Highlander

Thursday **April 23 2026** | Issue 736

INSIDE: CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS PAGE 14-16 **FREE**

Water levels subsiding in Minden Hills

By Lisa Gervais

The Township of Minden Hills said flooding is beginning to stabilize in the municipality – with the evacuation centre transitioning to a warming centre as of April 21.

It's upstairs at the community centre at 55 Parkside St. with 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. hours for now, with shower facilities, refreshments, and spots for charging devices.

The recreation centre resumed scheduling April 22 with the fitness room, walking track, rink and drop-in programs all a go, while registered programming resumes April 27. The cultural centre also reopened April 22.

The township said this past Tuesday "water levels in the Minden watershed continue to fluctuate. The township will work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada in monitoring water levels and conditions over the next two weeks."

The Sunnybrook bridge downtown and Loggers footbridge by Canadian Tire are still closed.

Minister of emergency preparedness and response, Jill Dunlop, visited the Minden fire hall and evacuation centre April 20.

The township said while conditions are stabilizing, they are still in a holding pattern and planning for the recovery is underway.

Dunlop said the province stepped in late last week when they were contacted through the community emergency management co-ordinator - responding with Global Medic volunteers -who had been sandbagging at the fire hall - and Ontario Corps volunteers through the Salvation Army Corps, who have been coordinating efforts at the evacuation centre this week.

Dunlop last visited the community when it declared a state of emergency following the 2025 ice storm.

She commented Monday on "how the community has really come together.

"Everyone is working together … the province and the municipality and our Ontario Corps volunteers and partners out here." She mentioned mental health supports are also being provided.

When asked about provincial funding once floodwaters recede and the damage to infrastructure can be assessed.

Continued **'State'** on page 2

Pitching in

Haliburton Army cadet, and Highland Hills United Church minister, Max Ward, volunteered with his mother, Sue Ward to fill sandbags. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Highlander news

Left: Francis D'Antimo has been volunteering to help with flood efforts. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.* Right: Minden homes and river flooding. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

State of emergency to last several more days

Continued from page 1

Dunlop said she spoke to the minister of municipal affairs and housing April 20 advising she was visiting Minden Hills. "It will be something that I will be speaking to him about and assessing the situation." She noted 10 communities had declared states of emergency.

The township declared its on April 15. Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter expected it to continue for another five to eight days from this past Monday.

He said they've probably had as much water as previous floods, in 2019 and 2013, but it's been managed better, mitigating risk as much as possible.

Carter said they have to wait for the water to go down to assess damage, although they were planning to do bridge inspections later this week. "That's the real thing. What's been deposited on these lands, wells may have been affected."

As a result of the Sunnybrook bridge closure, Trillium Lakelands District School Board has been bussing students – who would normally walk across the bridge - to and from the IGA parking lot on Bobcaygeon Road.

Volunteers

During National Volunteer Week, *The Highlander* caught up with helpers in Minden.

Francis D'Antimo began volunteering last Thursday when a beaver dam broke, sending water across County Road 121. "There was a whole bunch of us going up 121 to save these people's homes," he said.

He was on Anson Street last Wednesday night in waist-high cold water helping to sandbag. He helped lay bags on Water Street. He said one of the hardest things was talking to seniors who had no insurance.

Elizabeth Mathew swapped her night job checking in people at the rec centre for shifts in the kitchen at the evacuation centre.

The Hal High student served food made by the Minden Community Food Centre.

She said it had been fun, hanging out with Minden Hills full-time staffers she never sees, "and it's also nice just to be able to serve people and have conversations."

She said she was personally unaffected by the flooding but "I really feel for anybody who is being affected in that way. I also feel really positive for how much, as a community, we have rallied together."

Highlands East

Highlands East said this week that Contau Lake Road remains closed at Irondale Road due to flooding. Access is available from Gooderham (County Road 507) only. The Community Centre Road and Gooderham Park have been reopened. Updates will be shared as conditions change.

Sandbags are available at the public works yard at 19897 Hwy. 118. This is a self-serve station. Residents are asked to bring their own shovel and lend a hand to neighbours where possible.

Council grounds airport consultant

By Mike Baker

Talks will continue in-house on ways Algonquin Highlands can develop Stanhope Municipal Airport. *File.*

Algonquin Highlands council has grounded plans to spend up to $122,000 on a consultant for a revised development plan for Stanhope Municipal Airport, opting to complete some of the work gradually in-house instead.

The township committed to the six-figure sum during budget deliberations to help advance several projects at the facility, with council also seeking advice on what to do with 10 developable lots, currently vacant but ripe for commercial or industrial use.

An initial plan was completed in 2014, but council put out an RFP to update the document in 2024. After receiving little interest, public works manager, Adam Thorn, pitched the job to Kitchener-based Avia NG Airport Consultants, which was hired last year to assist with tree clearing at the airport.

Jordan McDonald, a project manager with the firm, presented a proposal to council April 16. His seven-step plan included an in-person visit of the airport to assess existing infrastructure; consult with municipal staff and airport users; review the existing document; and put together detailed drawings outlining potential upgrades.

"We work specifically with smaller municipal and regional airports… specializing in operational service, runways, airspace and planning, development and design and terminal works," McDonald said.

Janine Mitchell, another firm representative, said Avia NG recently partnered with the Town of Midland on a new plan for Huronia Airport.

"Very similar exercise to what you guys are looking for. We reviewed their property, figured out what land could be developed, what could be sold off," Mitchell said.

Mayor Liz Danielsen felt the township already knew much of that information – asking Thorn if staff could handle tweaking the previous plan without any additional spending. The public works manager said he could, while also advocating for greater involvement from the airport committee.

Thorn said the first thing council has to decide on is what to do with the vacant lots.

"Does the township want to be landlords, or just sell the property?" he asked, suggesting council hire a commercial real estate agent to gauge interest.

Attracting new commerce and industry to the airport lands is key to balancing its books, Thorn said. The facility operates at a loss, though expenses were scaled back in 2026 – anticipated at $57,900 from over $107,000 last year.

"I think we have a lot of opportunities within the airport property, as well as the developable area, to sell lots to help offset costs to develop other lots for businesses," Thorn said. "If we can sell-off, say, six lots and that covers us developing two lots [to manage ourselves], that would be very beneficial and efficient for us as a municipality and for our taxpayers."

Several of the airport's hangars are damaged, meaning they're closed and not bringing in any revenue, Thorn said. The township has been told it will need to invest around $2.3 million to fix the roofs of five buildings.

Land is still set aside, too, for a longer runway – which could, one day, open the door for larger planes to utilize the airport. Last year, council also approved a spend of up to $100,000 to help bring a new food vendor to the site.

As of Dec. 31, the township had just under $1.05 million in its airport reserves.

Danielsen liked the idea of breaking the airport plan into "bitesize pieces" and doing the work in-house. The $125,000 set aside for that would be added to the reserve fund.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux worried that completing things step-by-step could prove more costly, but coun. Sabrina Richards felt it was more prudent.

"This is about trying to save costs and move the needle forward at the airport without spending money unless we have a firm return on it… we don't want to build something unless we have somebody willing to move in and know it will be rented out," Richards said.

Thorn said he would return to council's next meeting May 7 with a breakdown of the property and its existing assets.

"I'm looking more basic – it doesn't need to be an elaborate plan right now. We need to determine what council wants. Once we establish what properties we have and what we want to do, then we can move onto the next step… of developing it or leaving it and selling as-is," Thorn said.

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Highlander news

Haliburton woman fined for illegal hunting

By Lisa Gervais

The Ministry on Natural Resources said last week that Katy-Lynn Meloche of Haliburton pleaded guilty to trespassing for the purpose of hunting, unlawfully possessing a firearm at night, using a firearm carelessly to hunt, and possessing illegally killed wildlife.

She was fined $5,000 and is prohibited from possessing an Ontario hunting licence and engaging in any hunting activities in the province for four years. She must also successfully retake the Ontario Hunter Education Course before applying for a hunting licence.

The Ontario Court of Justice heard that on Nov. 13, 2024, conservation officers responded to a public complaint of trespassing for the purpose of hunting a deer at night after a blood trail and a crossbow bolt were discovered in the complainant's backyard within the Village of Haliburton.

A Haliburton resident has been fined for killing a deer after legal hunting hours. *Submitted.*

They said an investigation determined Meloche shot at an antlered deer twice with a crossbow on Nov. 12, 2024. The deer was wounded after the initial shot and Meloche tracked the deer to a neighbouring property, taking a second shot at the deer after legal hunting hours. The bolt from the second shot was recovered stuck in the ground within close proximity to a home. It was found Meloche discharged the crossbow without reasonable consideration for people or property.

The wounded deer continued to travel through multiple properties within the Village of Haliburton before dying. The deer was recovered on the morning of Nov. 13 and unlawfully possessed by Meloche. Permission to recover the deer was not granted from all property owners where Meloche had tracked the deer.

Justice of the Peace Jennifer A. Mumby heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Lindsay, on Dec. 17, 2025.

To report a natural resource problem or provide information about an unsolved case, members of the public can call the ministry TIPS line toll free at 1-877-847-7667. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS. For more information about unsolved cases, please visit ontario.ca/MNRTips.

Highlander news

Cec Ryall, vice chair of the Lakelands Public Health board. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Health unit looks for direction

By Lisa Gervais

Heather May attended Lakelands Public Health's town hall in Minden April 14 out of concern for seniors.

"I've worked with seniors as a professional and we have a community that is becoming more and more senior and we need to adapt to them, instead of adapting to how we are going to make more money, or take care of the budget, or whatever," May said.

"We need to look at the fact people who are paying taxes in this community are seniors and they need things, and some of the things they need they are not going to be able to get and someone has to push for them."

After initial remarks by medical officer of health, Dr. Thomas Piggott, and Highlands East deputy mayor and County coun. Cec Ryall – who is vice chair of the public health board - attendees could go to various stations highlighting different health unit services.

May had questions, saying, "I wanted to know how we can fill in some of the gaps for seniors. Some of the gaps are so obvious." She does not think the health unit is addressing the topic of senior care to its full capacity.

May was just one member of the general public who came out for the town hall hosted by the just over a year-old Lakelands Public Health, which has come about from a merger of the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough Public Health.

Ryall said they were beginning to develop the health unit's strategic plan. "We came here to listen, to learn, and to ensure that the future of public health reflects the needs, priorities and aspirations of the people in the communities we serve."

Piggott said he wanted folks to think about the health of residents of Haliburton County for years to come. "Because we really have an opportunity, as we're thinking about the strategic plan, to think about the future of health in this region, beyond just months and years, to generations ahead."

He added the health unit is asking itself "who are we; where do we come from; why are we here, and where are we going?"

Piggott discussed the programs the health unit offers, ranging from infants to seniors, such as public health inspections at restaurants, managing health outbreaks, immunization, school-based early childhood development, substance use and injury prevention, chronic disease prevention, and emergency management.

He noted $100 on average per capita of people's taxes goes to public health. With inflation, he said funding to health units is down over the past decade. He noted there is more spending in Ontario on treating disease, than prevention. Piggott believes an ounce of prevention is indeed a pound of cure. He talked about the aging demographic in the region, saying a larger portion of the population will be sicker.; and people living in poverty experience more health issues. Residents were also encouraged to complete a survey that can be found at https://www.lakelandsph.ca

Oil spill leads to drinking water advisory

By Lisa Gervais

Lakelands Public Health is advising residents and cottage owners on South Lake in Minden Hills not to use lake water for any household purposes following a fuel oil spill.

They said furnace oil was released from a private property over the weekend.

"The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) have responded and are working with the property owner to contain the spill. MECP has confirmed that a sheen of fuel is present on the lake's surface. Due to changing wind conditions, the location of the sheen is shifting and cannot be fully contained."

Many properties on South Lake draw water directly from the lake.

As a precaution, Lakelands Public Health is issuing a drinking water advisory for affected residents.

Residents and cottage owners drawing water from South Lake are advised not to use the water for: drinking, cooking or food preparation, brushing teeth, washing fruits and vegetables, bathing or showering as well as dishwashing.

Other tips include using bottled water or an alternative safe drinking water source not affected by the advisory.

Minden Hills fire chief Don Kruger said the township has 15 cases of bottled water that will be donated to residents of South Lake. They will be available for pick-up at the fire hall as of yesterday afternoon. They will be on a first come first serve basis, or if a member of the lake owners' committee wish to come pick them up to disperse them.

MECP, Minden Hills, and Lakelands Public Health are actively monitoring the situation. Local agencies, including the OPP, have also received inquiries from concerned residents. The advisory will remain in effect until further notice. Residents will be informed when it is safe to resume normal water use. Stay Informed For updates and additional information, visit: LakelandsPH.ca/BWA or contact Lakelands Public Health at 1-844-575-4567.

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Highlander news

Meat the new McFadden's

McFadden's Meat Market celebrated its re-opening on Monday (April 20) after closing late December for extensive renovations. Owner Mike McFadden was excited to get the doors back open to the public and to showcase the expanded footprint of his business. "It's been great, great reactions for our customers," he said. "Very positive and supportive."

Above: Father-daughter team Mike McFadden and Rilynn McFadden-Bain pose for a photo inside the newly renovated meat market. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

OPP NEWS

Vehicle in ditch leads to charges

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged an individual with impaired driving.

They said on April 16, at 7:01 p.m., officers were alerted to a vehicle in the ditch on McKnight Drive in Minden. Officers attended the scene and located the vehicle and the driver. After speaking with the driver, officers entered into an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Jodi MacIsaac, 60, of Minden was charged with operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date. Their driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and the motor vehicle was impounded for seven days.

Charges laid for impaired driving

On April 17, at 2:54 p.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint on Blairhampton Road in Minden Hills. Officers attended the area and located the vehicle. Through investigation, officers charged a driver with impaired driving offences.

Matthew Vargas, 21, of Haliburton was charged with: operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs; operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus); driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor and young driver - blood alcohol above zero.

The accused was given a seven-day vehicle impoundment and a 90-day driver's licence suspension. He was released and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date.

OPP released images of the suspects. *Submitted.*

Members of the public are urged to call 911 if they observe a suspected impaired driver.

If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, visit Crime Stoppers at: www.khcrimestoppers.com or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Police looking for suspects

OPP are requesting assistance from the public in identifying two individuals believed to be involved in a series of thefts in downtown Minden at the end of March. The suspects were seen entering a mid-sized car, possibly red in colour, and driving away from the scene.

If you have any information that could assist police, contact the non-emergency line at 1-888-310-1122 and reference occurrence number E260423067. You can also report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

(OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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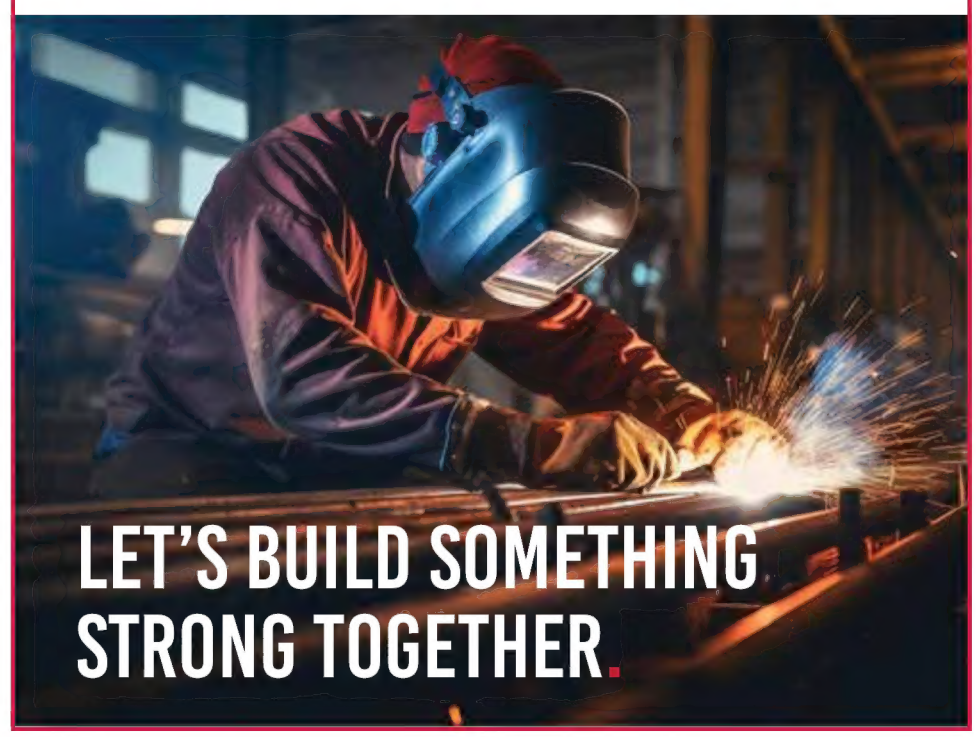

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada

Take a breath

By Lisa Gervais

Since Minden Hills declared a state of emergency due to flooding April 14, I have been a daily visitor to town.

It all began last Tuesday as the water rose over familiar roads, such as Anson and Orde streets, McKnight and St. Germain.

Although it had been since 2019 that I last waded through those streets in rubber boots, it felt all too familiar.

Heading to the sandbagging operation outside of the Minden Curling Club felt like déjà vu, too.

However, some things have certainly changed.

I'm told the same volume of water is likely coming through the watershed as did in 2019 and 2013. However, that deluge has been better managed by Parks Canada. While everyone likes to blame Parks Canada for its management of the Trent-Severn Waterway system, the fact is their reaction to the perfect storm – snowmelt with a large concentration of water and heavy rainfall – saved Minden village and many of its residents and businesses from what could have been catastrophe.

That is not to say some folks out there are not in dire straits. Many are facing large cleanups and the costs associated with that.

Another big difference this time around is the response to the flood. Certainly, the township pivoted very quickly in declaring a state of emergency. Sadly, we have all learned much from the 2025 ice storm. This time around, the township had a template: declaration, call for provincial help, dust off the management plan from just over a year ago. Neighbouring municipalities certainly chipped in, as did agencies, community volunteers and businesses.

The province is learning too – effectively organizing a volunteer brigade to respond to emergencies.

Emergency Management Ontario has been instrumental throughout this situation. The new Ontario Corps initiative brought an amazing number of volunteers to help in the community with sandbagging activities via Global Medic. At the evacuation centre at the Minden Hills community centre, the Salvation Army has provided supplies and volunteers to staff the centre. This has been critical as the township continues to address issues and prepare for recovery. Last time around, township staff were seconded to do a lot of this work.

The community always responds in these situations in our County. When I was sandbagging Sunday at Our Lady of Fatima Church, the spirit of volunteerism was humbling. As always.

It appears the tide is turning. Water levels are receding. It's soon time to begin recovery. The township will be assessing the Sunnybrook bridge for damage as well as other municipal infrastructure. Homeowners will begin to get their houses back in order. Life will go back to normal.

There will also be time to debrief. What did we get right? What did we get wrong? It's these types of conversations – rather than criticism – that will lead to an even better response next time we are in a similar situation.

It's not over yet, mind you. It could still be another few days until the bridge is open and kids start walking to school rather than being bussed from the IGA parking lot. However, for now, it's okay for everyone to take a collective deep breath.

Keeping it in-house

By Mike Baker

It was encouraging to see Algonquin Highlands council last week buck the trend of municipalities spending big money on outside consultants.

On April 16, the township heard from Jordan McDonald, a project manager with Avia NG Airport Consultants out of Kitchener. He pitched a $122,000 project that would have seen his firm complete a seven-step plan analyzing Stanhope Municipal Airport.

The proposal included an in-person visit to assess existing infrastructure, consult with municipal staff and airport users and review a previous development plan completed in 2014. McDonald said Avia NG would put together detailed drawings outlining ways to improve current assets and pave the way for new ones.

Council set aside $125,000 during 2026 budget deliberations for the work, but, upon closer review, mayor Liz Danielsen felt the township would be better off saving its money and having work completed in-house. She rightly criticized some components of Avia NG's costing – including $10,000-20,000 for an in-person presentation of the draft report.

It was a breath of fresh air seeing council fly in the face of public sector tradition. Governments, including the ones in our County, are usually far too quick to spend taxpayers' money on fancy reports and documents that are sometimes used, but quickly forgotten about. It's especially frustrating when the final product is often on par, or even inferior, to previous works compiled by in-house staff.

Public works manager Adam Thorn has no doubt kept very busy with his normal day-to-day tasks, but he knows that airport facility like the back of his hand. For what's needed right now – namely, council to decide whether it wants to keep several developable lots at the site or sell them – he's the right man for the job.

There will need to be some outside help. Like for thinking about ways to attract new businesses to the airport – but that can be done by working with a commercial realtor, who could bring potential partners to the table.

The airport has been a financial headache for the township for some time. It has operated at a deficit for several years, though costs have been scaled back some 43.45 per cent in 2026 ($57,900 budgeted versus a $107,592 spend last year). Another $160,000 has been earmarked for airport development, though the bulk of that will now go back into a reserve fund that boasts more than $1 million.

Council has done a good job planning for a rainy day at the Stanhope site. Since 2020, the municipality has contributed $974,149 to the airport reserve. Costs quickly pile up, though. In 2020, council toyed with the idea of spending $100,000 developing an access road to service the developable lots. Around $2.3 million is earmarked for hangar repairs.

One thing council needs to figure out is how much return on investment the public really gets from the airport. The existing 2,500 ft. runway isn't large enough to allow for commercial flights, so revenue options are limited. Plans for a new 4,000 ft. runway, pitched in the early 2000s, has sat on the shelf for years and would surely cost millions of dollars to complete.

Back in 2020, deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux advocated for selling the airport, or ceding it to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, which opened a fire base at the site in 2016.

There are benefits to having a local airport – it helps with tourism, though it's unclear how many people are flying up to Algonquin Highlands for day trips considering the rurality of the location. It's also used by emergency services.

The airport's long-term viability, at least in some ways, is tied to those vacant lots. I liked Thorn's idea of selling some of them to raise money to pay for needed repairs and development of future infrastructure. That way the burden doesn't fall completely on the taxbase.

This development plan will be something of a moving target for the township, with more discussion planned May 7.

Council needs to decide what it wants the Stanhope airport to be. And how to balance the budget to ensure it doesn't remain such a drain on municipal resources.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Clean and in good repair only

Dear editor,

The 4Cs wants to thank the community and business partners for all the support that has been received to keep the Haliburton food bank going during these tough times. Our number of clients has almost doubled since this time last year.

Many people in our community don't know that the 4Cs is both the Lily Ann Thrift Store and the Haliburton food bank (both on York Street). Items donated to the Lily Ann are sold and those proceeds, along with cash donations, are used to purchase food for the Haliburton food bank. Every dollar of every cash donation goes directly to the purchase of food.

The 4Cs has a problem that the community can help with. You might not believe it, but the 4Cs receives so much soiled and damaged clothing that we have had to find a way to create income instead of wasting dollars on landfill costs. That service is no longer available to us. Diabetes Canada, which has paid for these unsellable items in the past, is not picking up from the 4Cs at this time. Over a year, this will be a loss in income to the 4Cs of more than $6,000 this year alone.

That means if donations to the store include soiled or damaged clothing, those items now have to be taken by the 4Cs, at a cost, to the local landfill site. We are asking your readers to help us solve this problem by continuing to donate to the Lily, but to ensure that all items are clean and in good repair. If not, please take your own unusable clothing to the landfill.

Thank you for helping the 4Cs stock the food shelves instead of incurring landfill costs. Help us continue to help those friends and neighbours in our community dealing with food insecurity to be able to access food when needed.

Louise Ewing, chair, 4Cs

Voters in rural Ontario ignored

Dear editor,

I live in Haliburton County. I have just read that Doug Ford is buying a private jet with Ontario taxpayer dollars.

This for his use. Who the heck does he think he is? We in rural Ontario, East haven't got a bus or train available that can take us to surrounding towns and villages or to the city.

Conveniently, Muskoka, where Ford owns a cottage, has both. Ford is spending billions of taxpayers' dollars on transit for Toronto, spas, a new science centre, convention centre, Billy Bishop Airport amongst other things.

We don't have the luxury of a bus to travel to Toronto? Presently, we in Minden are suffering through floods. Our aging sewage plant cannot handle the added stress. The added raw sewage was released into the Gull River and allowed to flow into our lakes and the Trent-Severn Waterway system.

Many of us get our household water from our surrounding lakes. Voters in rural Ontario are being ignored. Our tax dollars are being used for useless city luxuries while we use household contaminated water. The only time politicians consider rural Ontario is during election time when you need our votes.

Deborah Watson
Minden

Editor's note: Premier Doug Ford subsequently sold the jet. The wastewater bypass was for a short period of time and not considered dangerous.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Diana Migas took this photo April 18 on Halls Lake.

Support Minden auxiliary

Dear editor,

Just wanted to remind everyone of the gift shop outside the Minden long-term care home.

Our Spring merchandise has arrived and the selection is fantastic. Because of the overflow from previous stock, we will be having blow-out sales Fridays May 8 and 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please stop by for some outstanding bargains.

Watch for us at many locations July 10 for our annual tag day, a huge fundraiser for us.

Our 'wine on wheels' tickets will be available shortly and we have moved up the draw date to September so make sure you get your tickets early.

We plan on having a presence at the Minden farmers market a few Saturdays this summer so please stop by if you see us.

Your support means so much to us as the more we raise, the more we can support the health care in our community.

We thank you for your past and continuing support

Cecille Gibbons
Marketing coordinator
Minden Health Care Auxiliary

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THIS WEEK: Drive-By Chewing - Parking Lot Food Reviews

Highlander business

2026 Municipal Election

Thinking of Running for Council... Now What?

Free - Candidate Information Workshop

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129
719 Mountain St. Haliburton

Who Should Attend:

- Potential candidates
- Spouse or partner (family members of potential candidates)
- Anyone interested in learning more about local government

Anyone who is considering running for the role of Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Ward Councillor in any of the County of Haliburton municipalities is invited to attend a free candidate information session.

The information session **"Thinking of Running for Council…Now What?"** will be led by Clerks on Call, municipal management consultants with over 30 years of municipal experience. The session will provide an overview of the understanding the reasons to run—or not run—for council, key considerations before entering the race, the roles and responsibilities of council members and staff, the powers and influence of municipal government, the importance of transparency and accountability, and strategies for engaging with the media and the public.

There is no registration required for in person attendance.

Nominations to run for Council commence on May 1, 2026. Nomination Day is Friday, August 21, 2026 (9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). Municipal Election Day will be held October 26, 2026.

Hosted by Township of Algonquin Highlands, Municipalities of Highlands East and Dysart et al and the Township of Minden Hills

Tim Hortons owners Mike Garland and Paige Chapman are happy with the renovations at the Minden store. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Double double take: Tim's gets new look

By Lisa Gervais

Tim Hortons in Minden has had a facelift, just in time for the busy summer season.

Owners Mike Garland and Paige Chapman said they got a letter from corporate in 2025, notifying them that it was time for the Minden site's 10-year renovation.

They began working on the planning late last year with head office, which has pre-approved project management companies and design teams.

They wanted to get the work done in winter when the sit-in and drive-thru restaurant is not as busy. They brought in a temporary trailer to service customers while work was underway in the coffee shop.

The job recently finished, with customers noting some big changes.

While not necessarily visible to the clientele, Garland said one key component was moving the electrical room, which was in the middle of the staff work area by the drive-thru window. "Everything, the sandwich bar and coffee area, was crammed into one little spot. Sometimes you need more staff, but just couldn't fit any more into that area. It was important to move that to allow for any efficiencies."

Chapman added, "the renovation focuses on creating a more comfortable and efficient workspace for our team members, while also giving our guests a fresh, modern, and inviting new look." There is the same amount of seating.

Some of the features include self-serve kiosks for the first time, as well as four tills, up from two. The owners think this will help during busy times. They also have music for the first time. The bathrooms have been renovated with floor-to-ceiling tiles; there is new LED lighting; and the façade got a paint job. The artwork features cottage life scenes and hockey, two things Chapman and Garland know people like in this area.

They added while the previous layout was a challenge for staff, they still achieved platinum status for 2025. That puts them in the top three per cent of Tim Hortons across Canada for speed of service, guest feedback, and other key performance indicators.

Staffing woes

Garland and Chapman said they hope the new design will be more attractive to potential hires.

"Like many local business owners, we know staffing is a major challenge. In the past year, we've had only two students apply, attend an interview, and show up for their first shift," Garland said.

Chapman added it is far from their experience in New Brunswick, where a lot of high school students worked. They said one barrier might be the lack of public transportation, with students needing their own car, or relying on family and friends to drive them to work.

Smile cookies

Their annual Smile Cookie campaign is running from April 27- May 3. One-hundred per cent of cookie proceeds from Minden and Haliburton Tim Hortons will be donated to Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

Executive director Barb Smith-Morrison said, "it's going to be a fun week of connecting with the local community while raising funds and awareness for local cancer support."

Highlander people

Author strives to get people out in nature

By Lisa Gervais

Rick Whitteker got the call April 16 that 500 copies of his self-published book, *Nature Nuggets*, had arrived from a Markham printer to Parker Pad and Printing.

"It's very exciting," the newspaper columnist told *The Highlander* in an interview.

He said he had never envisaged writing a book, so the fact it has come together "is almost hard to comprehend. I'm super happy."

Nature Nuggets is a compilation of 30 articles Whitteker has submitted to *County Life* over the past two years via his bi-weekly column Naturally Yours. He said the book idea came from feedback on those columns.

"People would go out of their way to talk to me, in a restaurant or on the street, not people I would normally socialize with. They would tell me they really enjoyed my last article. And I started to think, 'maybe, there's something here'. I dipped my toe into the idea of whether a compilation would work." He talked to some folks and thought he could self-publish if he kept the project modest.

Nature Nuggets includes 20 articles on day hiking and paddling destinations and 10 articles on a range of ecological topics connected to the environs of Haliburton County.

A made-in-Haliburton product, Whitteker said all contributions to the book, including the writing, editing, publishing, and almost all the photos, were sourced locally. "I just felt there were enough resources within the community to get this done. It's all about the Haliburton Highlands, so it made sense to try to keep everything in that envelope. It's kind of unique that way."

Rick Whitteker stands on the Minden boardwalk April 16. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Whitteker said that to write columns, he needs to have "some real contact with my content beforehand. The articles I enjoy the most are the ones that I go out and experience something that's really impressive; whether it be going for a hike and experiencing wildlife, or just something that's impressive environmentally."

He said this time of year, it can be harder to find topics, especially under current flood conditions. Last week, however, he started writing a column about the mental health benefits of bird song. "It's something I felt when I went outside."

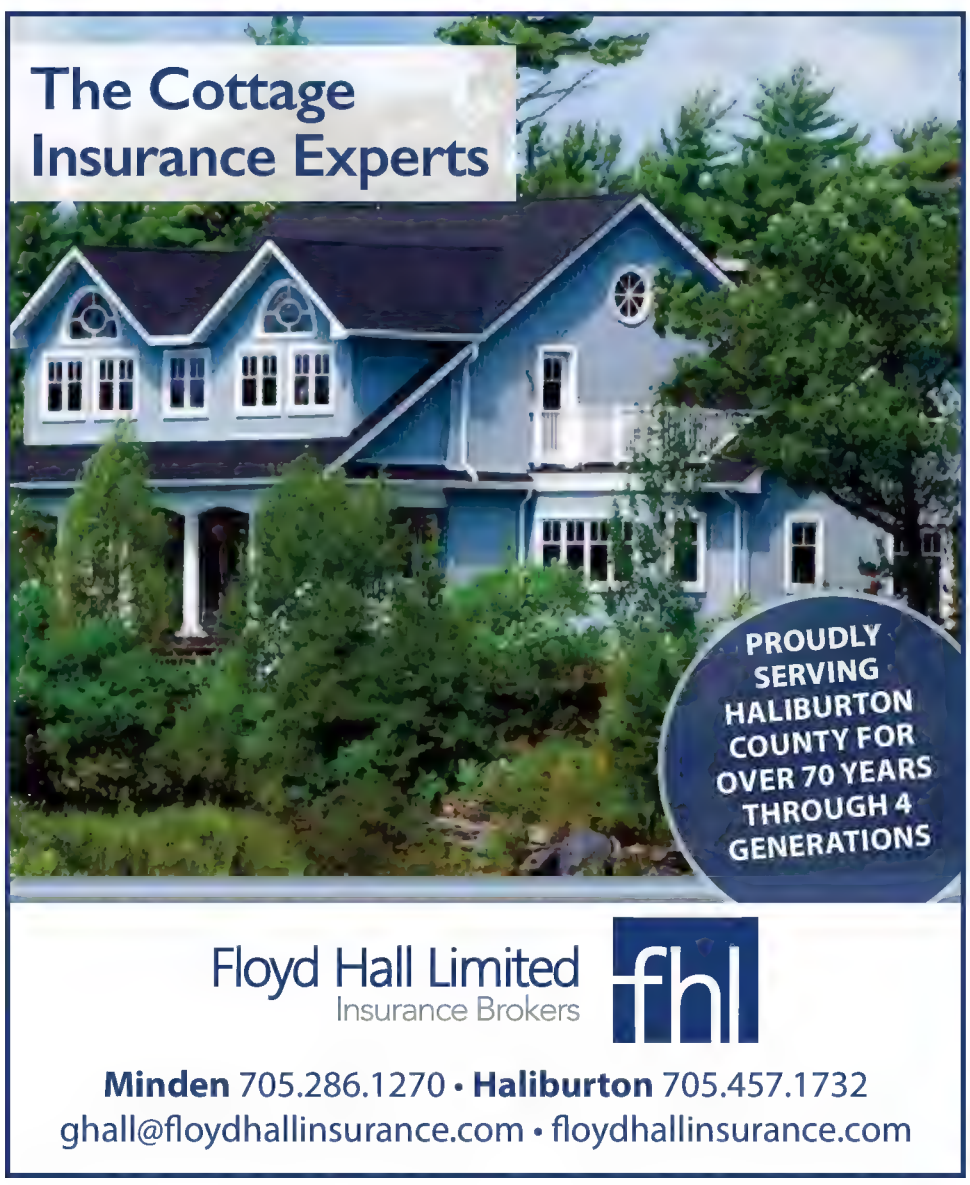
Whitteker moved to the Highlands in 1997. He was the editor of a wolf magazine when he worked at Haliburton Forest. He has worked in outdoor adventure, including at Fleming College for 15 years. He still works part-time at the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. It was through that work that he decided to write again with Darren Lum giving him the opportunity with *County Life*.

At the Land Trust, they talk about climate change resiliency and biodiversity, themes represented in his writing; about having a long-term vision for the land and water.

"As an older adult, this gives me purpose and joy, and is the main reason why I'm doing it. And the whole idea of getting people out into nature is important to me. too. You can't protect what you don't love, or you can't take care of something you don't know. The more people are outdoors, the more likely they are to say 'I believe in conservation, or I believe we need to take care of what's around us better,' because we can see the results of not doing that."

He's already sold 100 books sight unseen. There will be a book launch May 8, 10 a.m. to noon at Castle Antiques in Haliburton. The book is, or will soon be, available at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, UpRiver in Minden and Haliburton, and Masters Bookstore in Haliburton.

"It's a project. You take it on and you see it through to fruition. You have some self doubts along the way. And then it ends up coming in 50 boxes and you reflect on that and you feel pretty good about it." Whitteker said.



Anne (neé Kurkowsky) Cohoon

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

April 25, 2026

Anne celebrates her 100th birthday with her children, Jesse and Nancy, and grandchildren, Christopher, Jodi, Andrea and Natasha, and Eric and Tracey. Her great-grandchildren, Leia and Cade always delight.

Her family includes Al and Arlene Letwinka, Elaine Wright and many nieces, nephews and coat-tail relatives. She is honourary mum and gran to many and is loved and cared for by special friends, young and old, from near and far, who have been touched by her caring soul.

On this special day, Anne remembers her husband, Ken, and daughter, Cheryl, and other family members and dear friends who have passed and wait to greet her, eventually.

Born near Stenen, Anne has travelled from coast to coast and around the world. She is supported in her latest journey by the staff and caregivers of Highland Wood. Sharing hugs, kisses and back rubs along the way.

To commemorate Anne's birthday, a donation to the Highland Wood Residents' Council is welcome. hhhs.ca/foundation

To quote herself: **Doesn't she look lovely?**

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Choice of MAIN

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Beet hummus, green lentils succotash, fresh tomato salsa

QUICHE LORRAINE
Double smoked bacon, Gruyere cheese, and broccoli. Petite PHG salad & fruit

LOBSTER BENEDICT
Potato latkes, sumac-orange hollandaise, petite PHG salad

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Highlander outdoors

'No one rides alone or gets left behind'

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Club members pose for a photo at the Stanhope Airport. *Submitted.*

Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club is preparing for the 2026 riding season while maintaining a philosophy that has guided the club since its inception in 1997.

The club is about the company, not the kilometres per hour.

While the Haliburton Highlands may be known for the grueling climbs of the Canadian Shield, the Real Easy Ryders (yes, it's spelled with a 'y') emphasizes that cycling is for everyone.

"Pace wasn't important. And it was just a way for some friends to get together," board president LeeAnn Cruz told *The Highlander*. "Getting out to have a ride together and enjoy the scenery and, you know, go out for a coffee or lunch after the ride. And so it was considered just an easy ride."

While the club name may suggest a slow pace, it actually reflects a social-first attitude where "no one rides alone and no one gets left behind," Cruz explained. The club has also embraced modern technology and the popularity of e-bikes. About 45 per cent of the club's current membership uses electric-assisted bicycles to help navigate the rolling hills of the Highlands.

"What goes up must come down," Cruz said. "E-bikes go a long way toward helping our riders continue to enjoy the sport, even in hilly areas like Haliburton County."

The Real Easy Ryders also follow strict safety protocol to ensure that there's a respectful relationship with motorists while sharing the roadway. Cruz explained that cyclists depart in groups of no more than six to allow cars to pass safely. They ride in a single-file line unless on quiet backroads, reverting to single file as soon as a "car back" is signaled. The club also maintains open dialogue with the local council to advocate for improved cycling infrastructure throughout the County.

As for the social aspect, the post-ride is just as important as the exercise itself. The club has three group rides throughout the week and three potluck lunches throughout the season.

"And the rides that include a potluck lunch are always the most well-attended rides of the season, "Cruz said with a laugh. "Our numbers seem to shoot up dramatically."

The group often makes a pit-stop for lunch or a coffee at local favourites like Kate's Burger Counter or The Minden River Cone.

The club has riders in their late 30s to their mid-80s, who prioritize camaraderie over "hardcore" racing, Cruz said.

The club is kicking off the season with its 'Let's Get Rolling' event on Sunday (April 26) at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall, starting at 1 p.m. The free event will feature presentations on group safety, a look at the 2026 ride schedule, including trips to Goderich and Napanee. Dave Paddock, of Algonquin Outfitters, will also provide a demo on how to change a flat. For more information, visit haliburtonrealeasyryders.com.

KELSEY SHARPLESS
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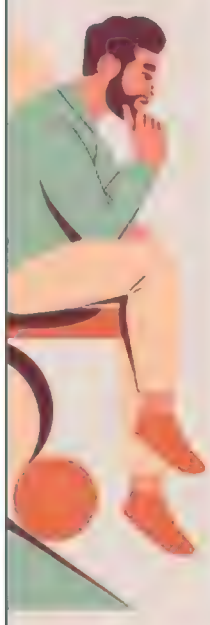
MSW, RSW, SOCIAL WORKER, PSYCHOTHERAPIST



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Highlander volunteers

HHHS

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As we also recognize International Volunteer Year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers. Your dedication inspires others and keeps the spirit of community glowing bright. Thank you for igniting kindness, connection, and hope those that we serve.

Interested in Volunteering?
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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION
HALIBURTON FISH HATCHERY

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) helps maintain and enhance local fisheries in Haliburton County. Its mission is to help residents and visitors to our County enjoy angling and other outdoor activities while practicing good conservation. Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked over 800,000 fish in local lakes.
For more information on the HHOA visit **www.hhoa.on.ca**

VOLUNTEERS:

The HHOA is always looking for new volunteers to help at the hatchery and the stocking of our lakes. In addition, we need people with various skill sets to help us with all the activities within the HHOA and the hatchery and continue its valuable contributions to the Haliburton Highlands outdoors community. Some of the skills needed but are not limited to the following:

- Fund Raising • Grant Writing
- Social Media - Advertising and Marketing
- Other skills that you believe that can be helpful

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Thank you, Haliburton

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Highlander volunteers

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Minden Community Food Centre
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Volunteer sandbaggers show Minden the love

By Lisa Gervais

When Minden Hills flooded in 2013 and 2019, Tiffany English volunteered to help fill and deliver sandbags. So, when the Gull River, along with the Burnt and Irondale rivers began to rise this spring, she headed down to the sand piles outside the Minden Curling Club once again.

"We're on high ground, so just here to help," she told *The Highlander*. A tiler by trade, she was taking time off to pitch in for the community. Her fiancé was out with the truck delivering sandbags, making runs to Carnarvon, Minden and Kinmount. She said some elderly folks had come to get sandbags to load into SUVs and volunteers just wanted to give them some extra help.

Asked about the spirit of volunteerism in Haliburton County, English said, "It always does amaze me, but I am honestly never shocked because we always come together whether it's a state of emergency or a tragic incident."

She referenced how the community answered a GoFundMe call to action for the family of Curtis Barker, who is battling a rare cancer – raising more than $100,000 in a short period of time.

English was working beside Faye Mortell, who'd come on her own to help. She said she was helping a resident who asked her what organization she was with. She answered, "myself, no organization. I was at my office watching the river and not being productive."

Highland Hills United Church minister, Max Ward swapped his cassock for army attire, answering a shoutout for cadets to help out. He brought his mother, Sue Ward.

"Just doing some volunteering for the community," Ward said. His mom added, "I've always done this type of thing."

Nathalie Chartrand took her boys, Kyle and Ethan Chartrand, out of school for the volunteer gig. Kyle said he was there "because I can help people that are struggling with the flooding."

Nathalie added, "we're very fortunate. We don't have water at our house so, really, this is the least we can come and do I think."

Faye Martell and Tiffany English met while volunteering. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Thank you to all our community volunteers
thank you

JAMIE SCHMALE MP
Haliburton
Kawartha Lakes
jamie.schmale@parl.gc.ca
jamieschmale.ca
705-324-2400

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK
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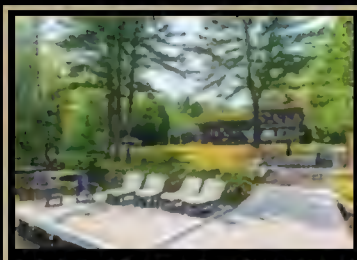

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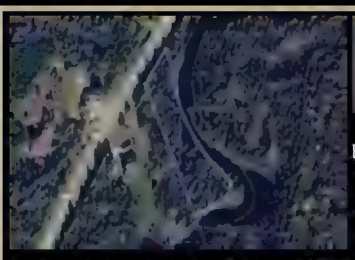

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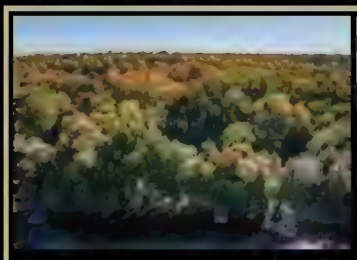

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Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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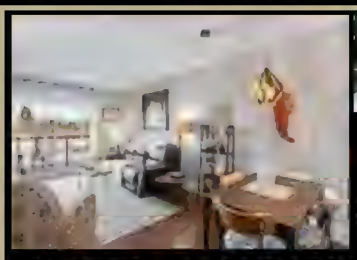

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Highlander events

ADVERTORIAL

Why patience comes in shades of brown

When the white snow melts, we're left with brown.

That at least is what is happening at Lucas House, my garden next to the post office in Haliburton.

The Little Bluestem, so radiant in the low evening sun of fall, was flattened and matted. The asters, which were tall last year, survived the blanket of snow. Dormant, yes. Architectural, very much.

Beneath the brown, Prairie Smoke foliage is green. And by the cedars are Snowdrops.

By Simon Payn

What's already happening

Someone on my road collects sap for syrup. A few weeks ago, his buckets were filling fast. I could see the line through the white plastic get higher every day. The maples were doing their invisible work ready for spring.

Different plants work to different clocks. Cool-season grasses (like our lawns) and sedges get going more quickly. Warm-season grasses, such as my Little Bluestem, won't move until the soil warms more.

Small buds are on the branches of my two Serviceberry trees, responding to the length of the day and the temperature of the air.

Below ground, as the soil warms, roots are growing. Plants are doing important work where we can't see it.

Woodland species are some of the quickest to get started. They leaf out and photosynthesize before the canopy blocks the light. This is why this time of year rewards a slow walk through our forests, from tiny Spring Beauty to white and red Trillium.

These early plants are subtle, which is why the dominant colour of most gardens as spring begins is brown – last year's fashion from this year's slow movers.

And it's why I cheated with my non-native (but not damaging) Snowdrops.

My role

I removed the flattened grasses last week, leaving a few that still have good structure. I also left the asters standing – there might be bees still sleeping in their stems.

Composting the dead and rotting material in a cage behind the house makes the landscape look more tidy and allows light to reach the Prairie Smoke and other plants that are beginning to get going.

This year I've ordered more woodland species for the shaded part of the garden. They'll provide food and habitat for insects in this brownest of months. And I'll shamelessly plant more Snowdrop bulbs next fall.

But I'm also practising patience.

The waiting game

Patience isn't just for the weeks of spring, it's for the years of the garden.

When Lucas House was just planted it looked sparse, threadbare. The plants were small and spaced out. Most of what you saw was soil and mulch. The plants' work was happening underground and out of sight. Their roots were exploring the soil.

And that patience will continue in the years ahead. I'm still waiting for my Butterfly Milkweed to get going, it's such a slow mover. And the sedges I planted last year – I need to wait to see if they'll fill in.

The Slender Mountain Mint was thin in the first year, then vigorous in the second, home and food to scores of insects.

As you walk towards the main entrance of Lucas House, look carefully on the right-hand side and you might notice Wild Strawberry, its green leaves, low to the ground and already growing.

It's not the first thing that catches your eye amid the brown.

But the plant is alive and in a few weeks it will have tiny white flowers and the sweetest of fruit.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

Different plants work to different clocks. Cool-season grasses get going quickly. Warm-season grasses won't move until the soil warms more.

Ecological gardens and shorelines designed and cared for over time

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For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca

grounded GARDENING FOR LIFE

Punched-up punchlines

Ctrl-ART-Del's latest production, *Punch Up*, opened at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on April 16 in Haliburton. The dark comedy, featuring Chris Chumbley, Spencer Zumpano, and Sophie Lee, delivered laugh-out-loud punchlines alongside strong performances from the entire cast.

Top: Chris Chumbley, in the role of Pat, opens the show as a stand-up comedian. Bottom: Sophie Lee, in the role of Brenda, performs during the second scene of the play. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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At participating offices. Instant Refund™ valid only on the federal portion of tax returns filed in Quebec. Some restrictions apply. Not everyone gets a refund. Not everyone is eligible for Instant Refund™.

Highlander events

A night of Adverse Conditions

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents hosted a fundraiser last Friday (April 17) at the Highland Hills United Church in Minden where soul band Adverse Conditions performed amid adverse conditions. The band played in front of a packed church with many attendees moving and grooving on the dance floor.

Above: Adverse Conditions perform at the Highland Hills United Church in Minden. Right: Guests bust a move on the dance floor while Adverse Conditions belts out a Michael Jackson tune. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 10:00 am
HHHS Minden Health Hub Auditorium
6 McPherson Street, Minden ON

Purpose of the Annual General Meeting: To receive the report of the Board of Directors, to receive the report of the Auditors & Financial Statements, the appointment of the Auditors, to conduct the election of the Directors and any other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation will be held in-person. Based on capacity and the current protocols, the meeting could include an online option at short notice. Only members will have the opportunity to vote. RSVP is preferred.

For further information and to RSVP,

please contact the HHHS Foundation at 705-457-1580 or foundation@hhhs.ca

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

RECRUITING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Would you like to make a difference in your community?
The HHHS Foundation is looking for leadership volunteers.

HHHS Foundation is currently recruiting new members for its volunteer Board of Directors, and is particularly interested in hearing from people with experience in any of the following areas:

- Board Governance
- Fundraising Experience
- Investment Management
- Accounting
- Legal
- Human Resources

Geographical diversity and previous board experience will also be taken into consideration. We are looking for people who are excited about fundraising and governance in rural, cottage-country health care. If you are enthusiastic about fundraising, community building and board governance and interested in building on our current fundraising efforts to optimize health services in the County, we would like to hear from you by May 15, 2026. New Directors will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on June 25, 2026.

For further information and to express your interest, please visit our website or contact:

HR Committee Chair, at foundation@hhhs.ca or 705-457-1580

More information available at:
foundation.hhhs.ca/about

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CPA

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UNIT 12, 187 Highland Street
(Glecoff's Family Store Building)
dionnemorgancpa@gmail.com
office: 705-457-3222 | mobile: 705-455-1421

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Eddie Pinelli, owner of County Auto, pictured outside his shop on April 16. *Photo by Adam Frisk*

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165 Lindsay St. 705-887-6232
muskokaauto.com

SPRING CAR CARE

Getting the granite out for spring

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's the time of the year again when vehicle owners are looking to swap their winter tires and hit the open road. However, a simple tire change shouldn't be the only spring maintenance you do on your car or truck.

According to Eddie Pinelli, owner of County Auto, Haliburton's unique environment can be "terrible" on vehicles that require more than a quick rinse at the car wash.

"Our environment is terrible on cars. Believe it or not, there is granite in the dirt," he explained to *The Highlander*. "There is granite dust, which is very hard, and it causes havoc with brakes and them sticking."

The industry expert explained that the combination of salt, road sand, and gravel acts like a "sandblaster" on the bottom of vehicles, stripping away undercoatings. That's why it's a good idea to get underneath the car with a hose or a professional detailer to clear out the creases where salt and grit hide.

"It's also a good idea to get the car undercoated if you're going to keep it long term," Pinelli said. "It's a proven method. You know, a little bit of oil spray."

When's a good time to swap out the winter rubber? Typically, the industry standard is a consistent air temperature of 7 C. But Pinelli said that Haliburton drivers shouldn't really stress over that seven-degree rule.

"The ground gets cold overnight," he explained. "If it's zero degrees at night and 10 degrees during the day, your tires aren't going to go bald. Don't wait for the rush."

Pinelli said that while winter tires are made of a softer rubber that stays pliable in the cold, they won't disintegrate the moment the sun comes out and suggests booking an appointment once the overnight freezes begin to taper off.

Another tip he provided for drivers is not to swap out washer fluid seasonally. While it's tempting to buy cheaper "summer" washer fluid, Pinelli advises against it.

"I don't recommend it," he said. "In the summer, we use far less fluid. You'll have summer fluid in the lines come fall, and when it drops below zero, your lines freeze."

He suggested using -40 C fluid year-round to avoid a frozen system when the first frost hits in September.

As for other fluids under the hood, Pinelli urged caution regarding brake fluid.

"Brake fluid and transmission fluid are not interchangeable," he said. "If you put any petroleum-based fluid in your brake reservoir, you're going to lose your brakes and cause severe, costly damage."

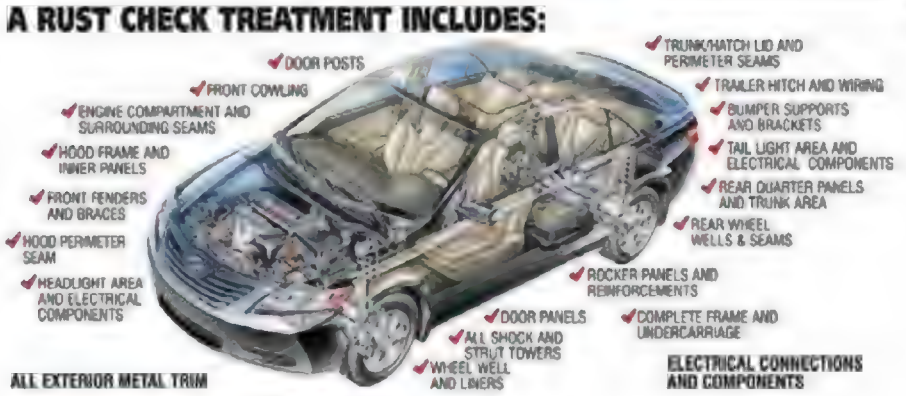
If you are not 100 per cent sure which cap is which, it might be best to leave it to the professionals, he said.

The auto shop owner suggested a few tasks for vehicle owners who might want to spend a Saturday in the driveway: Clean the carpets, as salt and sand act as abrasives that wear out your car's interior fabric. Have a partner stand behind the car to check brake lights, or back up to a wall and look for the reflection in your mirrors. Inspect the wiper blades and replace them if there are streaks. If your vehicle smells a bit musty, it's time to check the cabin air filter.

"If it's dirty, change it," Pinelli said. "A clean car runs better."

Haliburton AUTO
Chris & Natasha Coumbs

A RUST CHECK TREATMENT INCLUDES:



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READ THE HIGHLANDER. ANYWHERE.

Highlander events

The Municipality of Highlands East is accepting Tenders for

Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre Roof Repair and/or Replacement on North and South Side

RFT-02-2026

Work to be completed as follows and the pricing will be in accordance with the items below:

1. Repair/install a flat roof on the north side measuring 1,540 ft2.
2. Repair/install a flat roof on the south side measuring 1,150 ft2.
3. Thermoplastic polyolefin material to be used for the flat roof.
4. Properly seal all roof penetrations to prevent future leaks.
5. Work to start mid-May 2026 and be completed by June 12, 2026.

Sealed tenders are to be clearly marked **"RFT-02-2026 Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre Roof Repair"** and submitted to the attention of the contact provided below:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road, Box 295
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Deadline for RFT Submissions: Wednesday, May 6th 2026, at 1:00 P.M
For further details and to download a copy of the Request for Tender document, please visit the municipal website at www.highlandseast.ca

For additional information and to view installation site, please contact:
Jim Alden, Property Supervisor at 705-455-7515 or jalden@highlandseast.ca
Keith Tallman Memorial Arena
2256 Loop Road, Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

The Municipality of Highlands East is accepting Tenders for Two ,7.5-Ton Mechanical Dehumidifiers

RFT-01-2026

Two, 7.5 Ton Mechanical Dehumidifiers

The dehumidifiers are to be installed, wired, and fully operational by June 19, 2026, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the Municipality and Contractor. The existing dehumidifiers are to be removed and decommissioned, including freon, and taken off site.

Sealed tenders are to be clearly marked **"RFT-01-2026 – Two, 7.5 Ton Mechanical Dehumidifiers"** and submitted to the attention of the contact provided below:

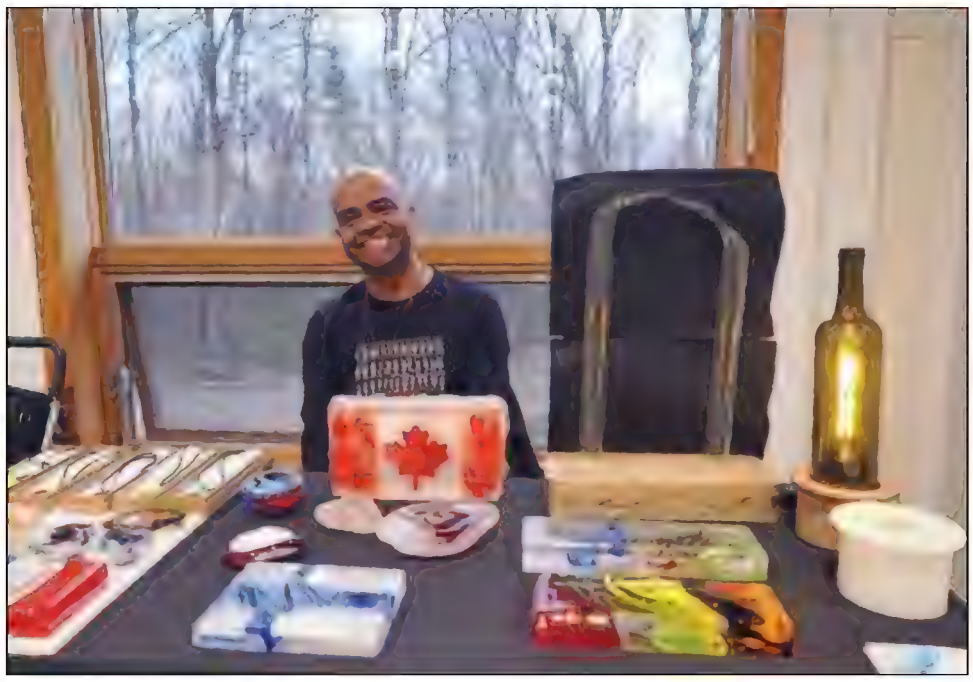
Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road, Box 295
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

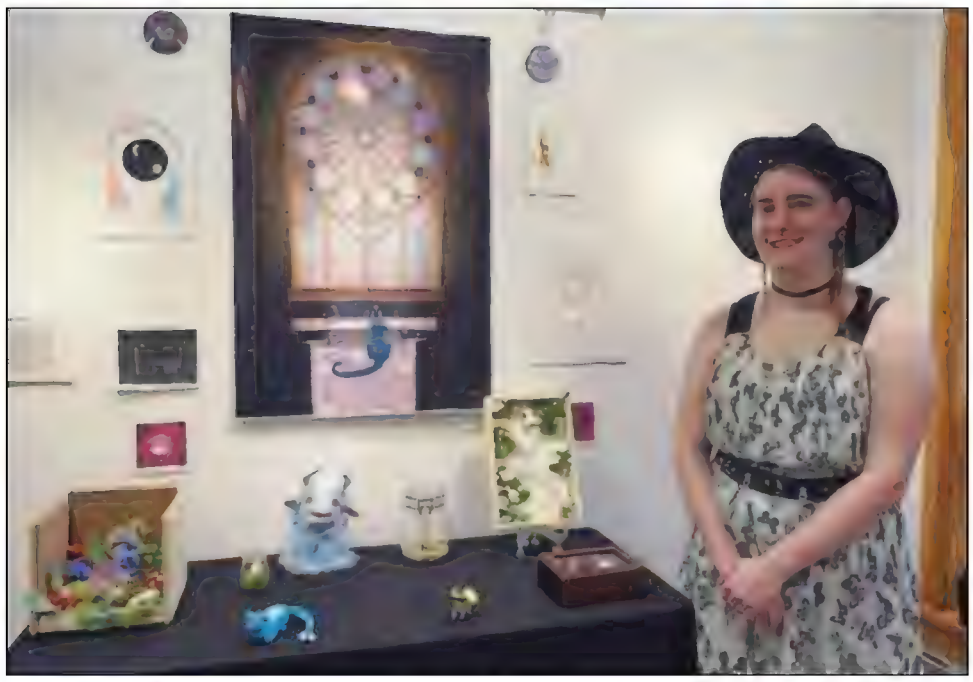
Deadline for RFT Submissions: Tuesday, May 5th 2026, at 1:00 P.M

For further details and to download a copy of the Request for Proposal document, please visit the municipal website at www.highlandseast.ca

For additional information and to view installation site, please contact:

Jim Alden, Property Supervisor at 705-455-7515 or jalden@highlandseast.ca
Keith Tallman Memorial Arena
2256 Loop Road, Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0





We made it!

The Haliburton School of Art and Design hosted its end of semester art show, highlighting the work by students and alumni. The 'We Made It' end-of-term exhibit took place at the college on Saturday (April 18) where the public had the opportunity to take in the work students had created.

Top: Photographer and glass artist Clive Ali is pictured with his work. Middle: Visual and Creative Arts Diploma student Madison Sirr. Bottom: Visual and Creative Arts Diploma student Gracie Emmerson. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Highlander sports

This one's for Dan

A volleyball tournament took place at Hal High on Saturday (April 18) to honour and pay tribute to the late Dan Gimon. About 40 players took to the courts for a little competition, socializing and camaraderie. "Volleyball was always a huge part of his life, from playing in college, university, and then went to coaching and coached here (at Hal High)," Dan's daughter, Natalya Gimon, told *The Highlander*. "So a lot of the people playing, he's coached and played a huge role in mentoring, and obviously me as well, raising me. So yeah, it's just a baseline for everyone." Tournament organizer Allie Paul said Dan was a father figure to her and wanted to bring people together to honour him. "Dan was volleyball. And I've been thinking about it for a year, and then just finally decided why not bring people together with something that we all love and have in common?" she said.

Top: Natalya Gimon, left, and Allie Paul pose for a photo between games at Hal High on Saturday. Middle: Volleyball players battle it out on the court. Bottom: Players compete on the court during the Dan Gimon memorial volleyball tournament. *Photos by Adam Frisk*

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024054:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1003 Lilypad Lane located within Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. **File No. PLSRA2025077:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 2060 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 10, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden

3. **File No. PLSRA2025078:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-032-000-77000 within Lot 10, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden

4. **File No. PLSRA2025089:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1200 Sugar Bush Lane located within Lot 21, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden

5. **File No. PLSRA2025090:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1232 Sugar Bush Lane located within the Lot 21, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **May 15, 2026**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than May 15, 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

NOTICE OF NOMINATION FOR OFFICE

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 32)

2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the positions listed below must be made on the prescribed form (Form 1) and **must** include signatures of **at least 25 persons** (eligible electors within your municipality) endorsing the nomination on the prescribed form (Form 2) **(School Board Trustees are excluded from the 25 signature requirement)**. Nomination forms are available at your local municipal Clerk's Office or on the municipality's website. All Nomination forms must be filed, either in person or by your agent, by appointment, with the Clerk/Returning Officer of the appropriate municipality during normal office hours between May 1, 2026 to Thursday, August 20, 2026, and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day).

The required filing fee for the Head of Council is $200.00 and all other offices are $100.00, cash, debit, certified cheque or money order made payable to the appropriate municipality and must accompany the signed forms. Full details on the procedures to be followed may be obtained from the appropriate Municipal Clerk. Please call the appropriate office to schedule an appointment to file your nomination.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED:

Township of Algonquin Highlands		Municipality of Dysart et al	
MAYOR	(1)	MAYOR	(1)
COUNCILLOR		DEPUTY MAYOR	(1)
Ward 1	(1)	COUNCILLOR	
Ward 2	(2)	Ward 1	(1)
Ward 3	(1)	Ward 2	(1)
		Ward 3	(1)
		Ward 4	(1)
		Ward 5	(1)
Returning Officer – Dawn Newhook		Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee	
Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-489-2379 www.algonquinhighlands.ca Email: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca		**Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca Email: aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca	
Municipality of Highlands East		**Township of Minden Hills**	
MAYOR	(1)	MAYOR	(1)
COUNCILLOR		DEPUTY MAYOR	(1)
Ward 1	(1)	COUNCILLOR	
Ward 2	(1)	At Large	(1)
Ward 3	(1)	Ward 1	(2)
Ward 4	(1)	Ward 2	(1)
		Ward 3	(1)
Returning Officer – Robyn Rogers		Returning Officer – Vicki Bull	
Municipality of Highlands East 2249 Loop Road P.O. Box 295 Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0 Tel: 705-448-2981 www.highlandseast.ca/election/ Email: HEelection2026@highlandseast.ca		**Township of Minden Hills** 7 Milne Street P.O. Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0 Tel: 705-286-1260 ext. 585 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 www.mindenhills.ca Email: elections@mindenhills.ca	

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED

Representing the County of Haliburton with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, Township of Dysart et al Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee **Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 Email: *aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca* Website: www.dysartetal.ca	Representing Sector 1 – Counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Hastings; Cities of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, and the Region of Durham of Conseil scolaire Viamonde. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, City of Oshawa or a local Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer within Sector 1 with delegated authority. **The County of Haliburton Local Municipal Clerk(s)/Returning Officer(s) and municipal contact information is above.** **Or** **City Clerks Services:** **City of Oshawa** 50 Centre Street South, Oshawa, ON Toll Free: 1-800-667-4292 Phone: (905) 436-3311 Email: clerks@oshawa.ca Website:www.oshawa.ca

Home of the Highland Storm

U15 LL Minden Pharmasave

The season opened with a 3–3 record as the team worked to adjust to new teammates and systems. Once they found their footing, the group came together quickly - winning nine of their next 10 games and climbing near the top of the standings ahead of their first tournament.

The Silver Stick tournament proved to be a confidence booster, highlighted by a strong semi-final win. Although the team ran out of steam in the championship game, their performance earned them an invitation to the International Silver Stick.

Heading into the Christmas break, the team competed in the Essa Eagles Christmas Classic, finishing the first half of the season on a high note. Their stellar defensive play carried them all the way to an exciting overtime victory in the championship game - allowing only one goal against throughout the entire tournament.

After the holidays, the team travelled to Pelham for the International Silver Stick. Entering with high expectations, they showed some rust and dropped three close, one-goal games. Despite the results, the tournament was a memorable experience - filled with team bonding and the thrill of facing a team from the U.S.

Down the stretch, the team continued to compete hard, securing fourth place in the regular season and a spot in the "A" division playoffs. Competition was tough, and although they ultimately fell short of the finals, they

finished the season in a strong third place out of 14 teams.

It was an exciting year supported by a fantastic group of families. A big thank you goes out to the manager, coaches, trainer, and parents for their commitment and encouragement. Most importantly, thank you to the players. Watching friendships form, confidence grow, and leadership develop made the season truly special. The players should be proud of all they accomplished. *(Submitted)*

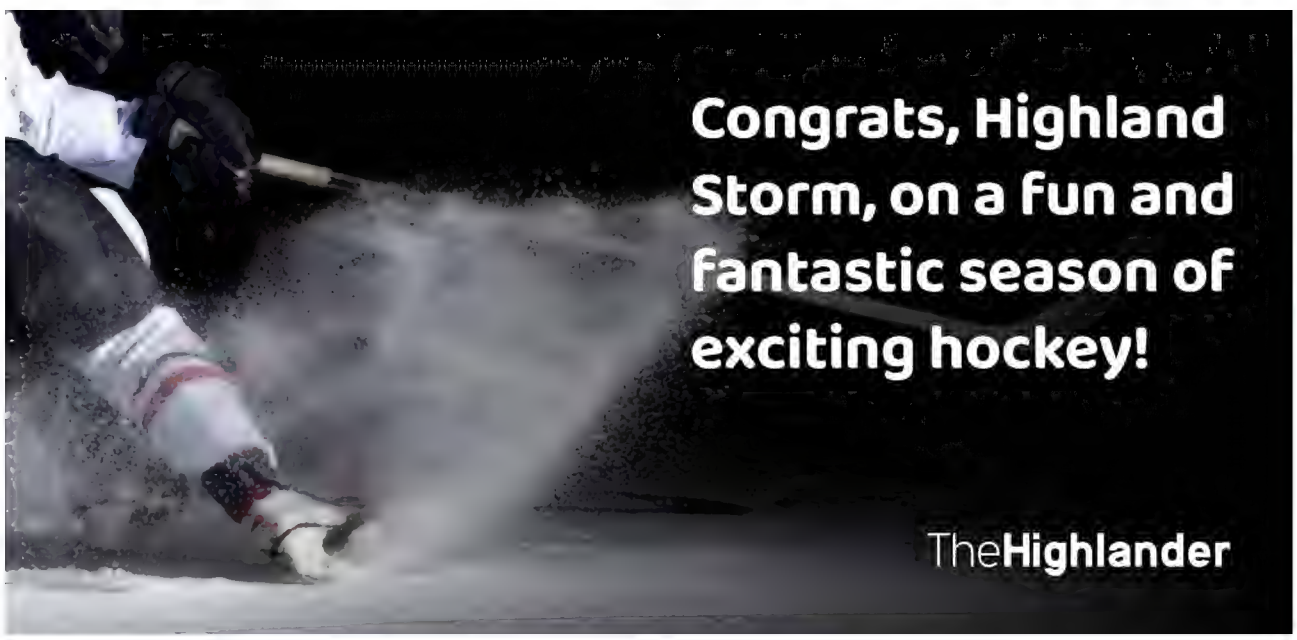
U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House

The Peppermill Steak and Pasta House U15 local league team had a fantastic season. The team started slowly as players and coaches got to know each other's personalities and skill sets. Through the first six regular season games the team was 3-3.

The team then went on to win their next 10 games in a row entering the Christmas break with a 13-3 record. During the undefeated streak, the team also played in the regional Silverstick tournament. They had a 2-0-1 record in the round-robin before losing in the semifinals.

After the break, the team worked hard to secure a third-place finish and a spot in the tier one playoff pool. The playoffs had the team playing in tight, hard fought, high-intensity games finishing with a 1-5 record but a goal differential of minus seven.

The players' hard work and never-quit attitude helped them win a bunch of close games this year. The coaching staff is very proud of the season they had. *(Submitted)*



What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m., youth dart league (ages 10-18) 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo will resume in the spring.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-6 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts April 29 at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Exercise club April 28 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts April 29 at 2 p.m.; cribbage at 6:30 p.m.; quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. April 24 is community care lunch at noon and wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Trivia April 25 at 7 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and **Monday** 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m. Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m. Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

April 23, 7 to 9 p.m. award nominated Canadian songwriter Zachary Lucky is doing a Home Routes/Haliburton County Folk Society concert at Knox United Church, 1012 Harvey Ave., Dorset. To reserve your seat email: mandjbuss@gmail.com or phone: 705-380-0895. $25 cash at the door. Proceeds to the artist.

April 24, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Open door at SIRCH Bistro and Bakery. Feeling disconnected? New to the community? Carrying a lot? Come out to this new monthly drop-in for free coffee, conversation and connection. No presentations or expectations. Taking place on the last Friday of every month.

April 25, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Master's Book Store is celebrating Canadian Independent Bookstore Day. Store-wide sales, free treats and other features, including a free book draw and golden ticket contest. Located at 195 Highland St. in Haliburton.

April 25, 9 to 11 a.m. Community breakfast hosted by the North Entrance Masonic Lodge and Haliburton United Church at 10 George St. in Haliburton. Come out for a warm and friendly morning filled with good food and great company. Donations are welcome, supporting elementary school breakfast programs.

April 25, noon. Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands invites people to attend an Ontario Health Coalition protest at MPP Laurie Scott's office in Lindsay (14 Lindsay St.). OHC executive director Natalie Mehra will be there to address the Ford government's approach to healthcare.

April 25, 6 p.m. Medeba not-so-silent auction. At Camp Medeba (1270 Kennisis Lake Rd.). Doors open at 6 p.m. and live bidding at 7 p.m. Online silent auction also available at medeba.com/about-us/charitable-giving/medeba-auction.

April 26, 1 to 3 p.m. The Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club is hosting its 'let's get rolling social' season kick-off at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall. There will be presentations on the club's ride schedule, upcoming trips and safety tips. Rides begin April 28 and run through October.

April 26, 2 p.m. Wild Honey Hoedown at the Haliburton Legion. This annual springtime fundraiser for the Johnny Burke Foundation features country acts Stephen Francis, Jamie Oliver, Christine Vaillancourt and Scott McGregor. Tickets are $25 and available at ticketscene.ca or by calling Teresa (705-455-7252) or the legion (705-457-2571).

April 27, 1 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) are hosting Fay Martin, author of *Dementia Widow*, to hear firsthand about her experience caregiving for her husband throughout his dementia journey. Taking place at the Minden Hills branch. Admission is by donation.

April 28, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting Gord Jones, a retired HVAC technician, at the Haliburton Highlands Museum for a discussion on green home heating solutions. RSVP to environmenthaliburton705@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

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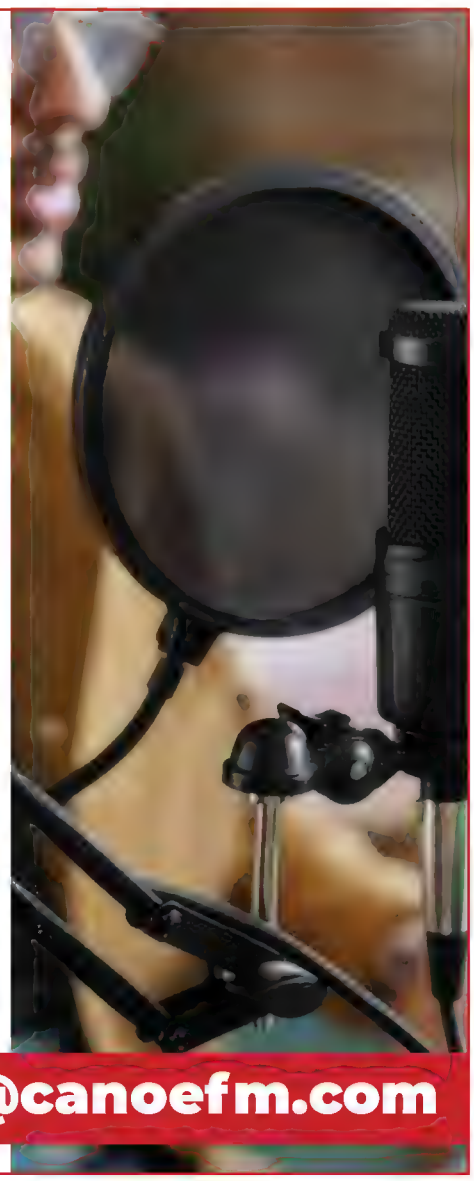

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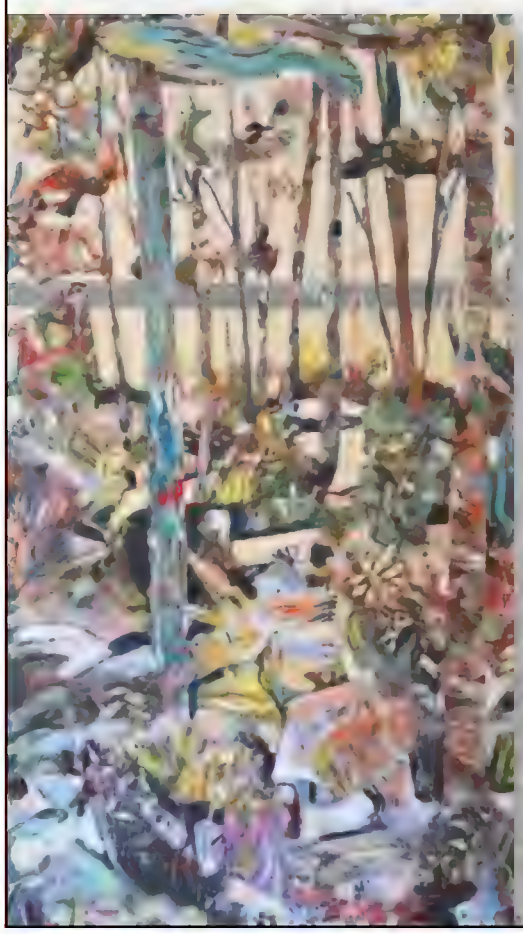

Hal High to bring Fahrenheit 451 to life

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Drama students, Trevin Bain-Gross, left, Viliya Ianovskaia, and Alex Humphrey rehearse the play on April 20. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students are set to bring Ray Bradbury's classic dystopian tale *Fahrenheit 451* to life.

Next week, Grade 11-12 drama students are set to take the stage to tackle the iconic 1953 novel, which still resonates with generations 70 years later. For drama teacher Meghan Mardus, choosing the production for 2026 was about providing a relevant reflection of the current times.

"This story is 70 years old, and Bradbury has managed to create something that has resonated in every era. The themes of fascism, of anti-intellectualism, of the importance of reading, the rise of technology, feelings of detachment and isolation and loneliness, the need for human connection, the need for storytelling," Mardus told *The Highlander*. "These are all things that are extremely applicable now. And my thought as a teacher was wondering whether the students would pick up on it the same way students in past generations would have."

And it seems that Mardus' students have picked up on the somewhat heavy themes of the book and adapted stage play.

"At first I was a little skeptical because normally we do comedies and stuff like that here," Trevin Bain-Gross explained. "I didn't know how it would be doing a more dramatic, serious play, but now I'm really enjoying it."

The student plays the lead role of protagonist Guy Montag, a fireman whose job was to burn books. However, the character begins to doubt the censorship of his futuristic society. And that's something that Bain-Gross said he can connect with in the 2026 digital age.

"The reason everybody stops reading books and they become illegal, is leisure. Nobody cares about books anymore. There's TV walls... You can just say hi to your family across the country in your living room. But you don't have to do that," the student said. "It's a lot of short-form content, kind of like how TikTok and Instagram reels are. I've actually found that after reading this and playing the character, I've found a newfound love of books for myself."

Sophie Lee, a student who plays a variety of roles on both sides of the issue, also drew parallels to today's time.

"I think that the play really kind of shows like an exaggerated version of what could happen because we are so reliant on technology," she said. "A lot of things that are more slow, like reading books or just spending time with people without technology, has kind of become lost."

While the young actors grapple with portraying their roles, there's a dedicated production crew working to bring the magic to the stage. Fallon Thorn, who manages costumes, props, and set transitions, said there are a lot of moving parts to the production.

"Taking the big couch off has definitely been a feat," she said, describing a scene that takes place in Mrs. Hudson's house. "Taking the couch off and then putting the new couch and sofa in is going to take a minute or two."

As for the special effects, Mardus remained tight-lipped on how the team plans to bring the story to life but promised a "layered" visual experience.

When asked to sum up the show in just three words, students described the experience as "exciting" to "enlightening," and even "eye-opening."

The production of *Fahrenheit 451* will take place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on April 30, May 1, and May 2 at 7 p.m. The entry fee is a recommended donation of $11, but all donations are welcome. Due to the mature themes, the play is recommended for those 13 years or older.

Mardus encourages the community to come out to support the arts and drama class.

"I think people won't expect a high school class production to be as good as this is going to be," she said.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- April 30 – Special Council Meeting
- May 14 – Regular Council Meeting
- May 28 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca/

Need assistance? Visit election staff at the Administration building (7 Milne St.) Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The Township of Minden Hills is in a declared state of emergency due to flooding conditions.

- If there is immediate danger at any time, call 911.
- Anyone needing assistance with evacuation should contact the municipality during business hours via flood2026@mindenhills.ca. If there is an emergency, contact 911.
- Call 988 for Mental Health Assistance available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
- Call 811 for Non-Urgent Medical Assistance – connect with a Registered Nurse Day or Night.
- Insurance questions? The Insurance Bureau of Canada advises people with homes experiencing flooding issues to contact your Insurance Representative or they can help contact them at 1-844-227-5422 or email consumercentre@ibc.ca for help to navigate the claim process.

PUBLIC ACCESS AED EVENT- NEW TENTATIVE DATE!

The official unveiling of the new public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED), originally scheduled for April 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., has been postponed due to ongoing flood conditions in the area. A tentative new date for the unveiling has been set for April 30, 2026. Further details will be shared on our website and social media accounts once confirmed.

RIVERWALK CLEAN UP- NEW TENTATIVE DATE!

Due to flooding conditions, the Earth Day River Walk Clean Up Event has a tentative new date for May 13th. To participate, please register by scanning the QR code.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917

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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

Due to a pending retirement, the Municipality of Highlands East is currently seeking candidates for the position of:

Full-Time, Building and Planning Assistant
Building Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
$29.02/hour
Hours of Work: 35 hours/week

Reporting to the Chief Building Official, the successful candidate shall provide administrative and clerical support to the Building Department, by assisting with various administrative duties to ensure effective and efficient operations.

To apply you must possess:

- Completion of secondary education with up to one (1) year of vocational training or equivalent.
- Valid Class G Driver's License.
- One (1) year progressive experience as clerical/administrative support within a Municipal Building and Planning department or equivalent.
- Proficiency in computer applications (including but not limited to Microsoft Office Suite, Outlook and Municipal-specific software programs).
- General understanding of the Ontario Building Code Act and other applicable legislation including municipal Official Plans and Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws.
- Excellent organizational and record-keeping skills with keen attention to detail.
- Ability to communicate accurately and effectively both orally and in writing.
- Highly motivated to work both independently and in a team environment, with minimal supervision.
- Establish and maintain respectful and effective working relationships with others.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality where mandated or required.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Full-Time, Building and Planning Assistant"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Monday, May 11th, 2026 via email, mail, in person, or fax. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

The Municipality of Highlands East
is currently seeking candidates for the future position of:

Part-Time, Trails Coordinator
Property/Parks & Recreation Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
$32.33/hour

Up to 30 Hours per week, varied days of the week
Overtime, weekend and evening work may be required.
Position to commence as soon as possible.

Reporting to the Property Supervisor, the successful candidate will lead the continued development and implementation of the Municipality's multi-use trail system. Building on foundational work, including the municipal Trails Strategy Initiative report, the Trails Coordinator will take a staged approach to expand and enhance trail infrastructure, access, and programming. This role requires strong collaboration with municipal departments, community stakeholders, and approval authorities to secure access across Crown, municipal, county, and private lands.

To apply you must possess:

- A Post-Secondary Diploma in Environmental Studies, Recreation Management Urban Planning, or a related field
- Minimum two (2) years experience in trail development, parks planning, or community project coordination
- Valid Ontario Class "G" Driver's License

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Part-Time, Trails Coordinator "** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Tuesday, May 5th, 2026 via email, mail, in person, or fax. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

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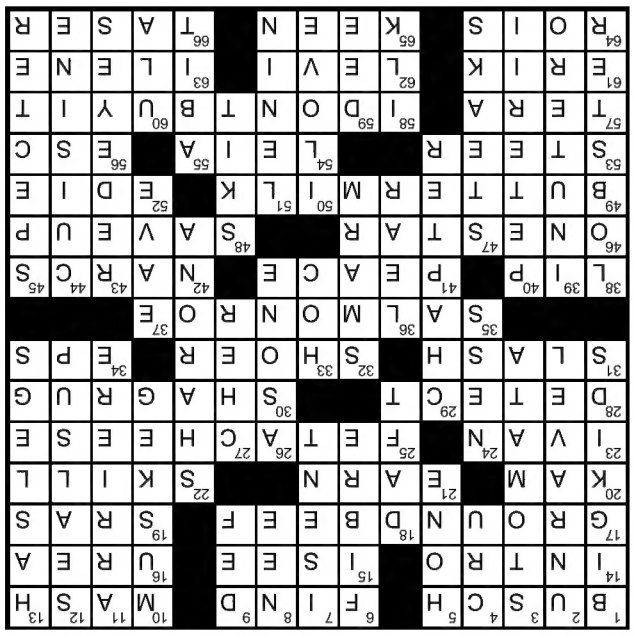

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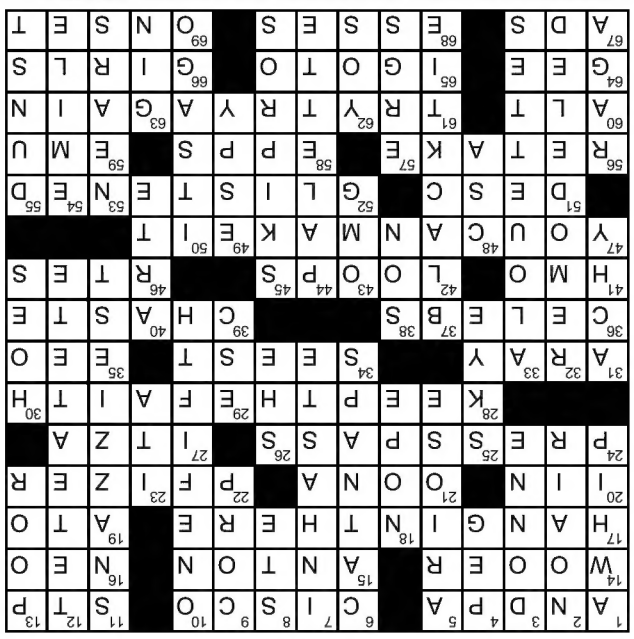

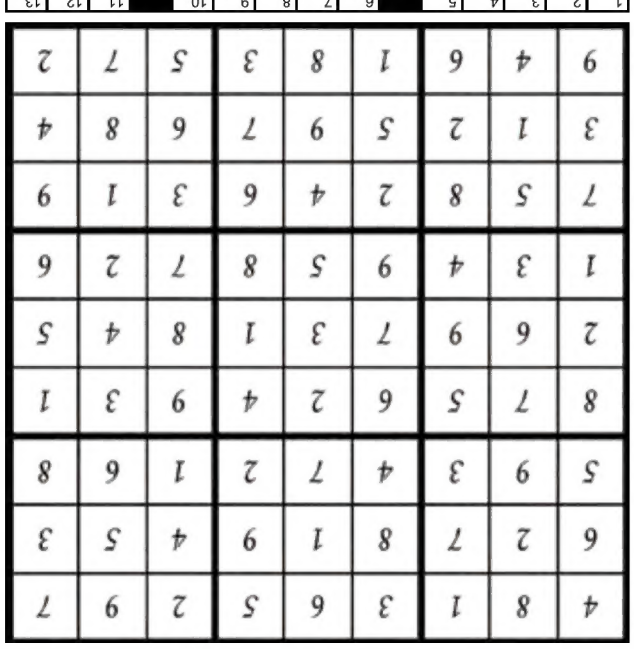

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Dan Donnelly

Passed away peacefully at home on Monday, April 13, 2026 in Karen's arms.

Beloved husband of Karen. Dear father of Brian and his wife Lindsay, Brett and his wife Kate, Cole and his wife Jax. Loving Grumpa to Cash, Memphis, Brooklyn and Keira. Dear brother of Dianne (Mike), Wayne (Sheena), and predeceased by Pat (Norm). Dear brother-in-law of Rick (Michelle), Sandy (Scott) and Della (Bob). Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Dan will always be remembered as the life of the party, his laugh would be recognized where ever he went.

A Memorial Mass will be held at the Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 11:00 am. A Celebration of Dan's Life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 521, 115 Back St., Bradford, Ontario on Sunday, April 26, 2026 from 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Toronto General – University Health Network Transplant Unit would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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NORTH STEEL is looking to hire a fulltime welder for our shop in Minden. Our shop is operational Monday to Friday. We are looking to hire a welder with experience. Benefits are available after 3 month probationary period. If interested Please email your resume to scott.alexander@northsteel.ca

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) GIS Technician (12-month contract)

The GIS Technician is responsible for the development, compilation, and analysis of GIS data. The successful applicant will possess related post-secondary education and two (2) years of related experience. The hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $35.06.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **May 8, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Two (2) GIS – NG911 Data Supports (17-week contract)
The GIS – Next Generation 911 Data Support position assists in the development, validation, and maintenance of GIS datasets that support Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency services by refining civic address point data. Successful candidates will possess education or experience with GIS software such as ArcGIS Pro. The 2026 hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $21.28.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **April 30, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed posting and job description information.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a

Deputy Clerk

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the permanent, full-time position of Deputy Clerk.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary, compressed workweek, excellent benefits package, Health and Wellness opportunities and enrollment in OMERS Pension Plan. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

WORK WANTED

HALIBURTON MAN looking for work, Mason by trade, but familiar with all aspects of construction, renos, demo, bush work, etc. Also, chimney or fireplace repair, foundation repair, brick, block, stone, concrete & tile. Call Shannon at 306-317-7073

NOTICE

This is to notify Michelle Beers that her stored contents will be sold and/or disposed of if we don't hear from her by May 1, 2026. Please contact Francis Storage at 705-457-7170.

Highlander puzzles

Never Say Die

by Barbara Olson
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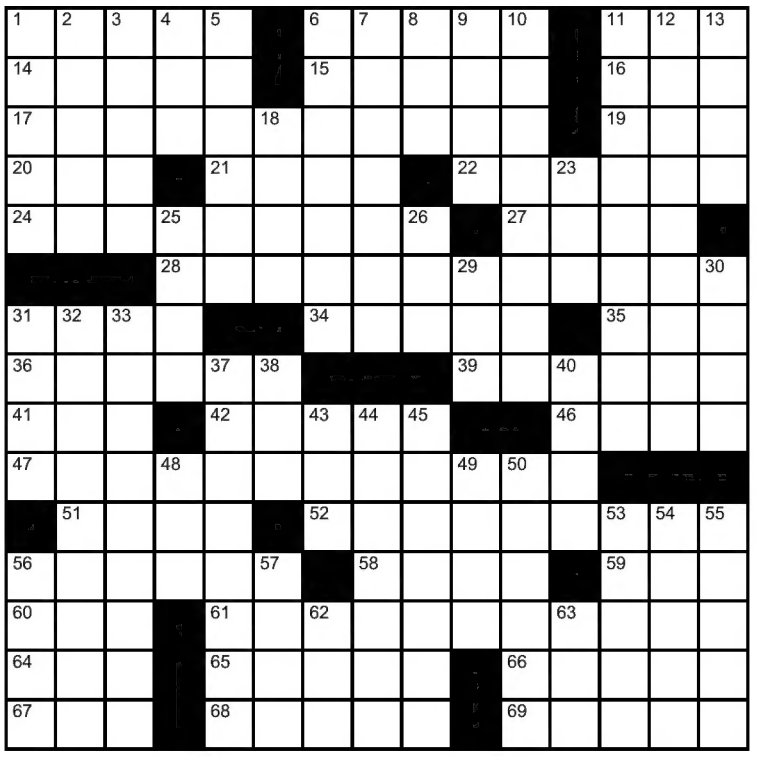
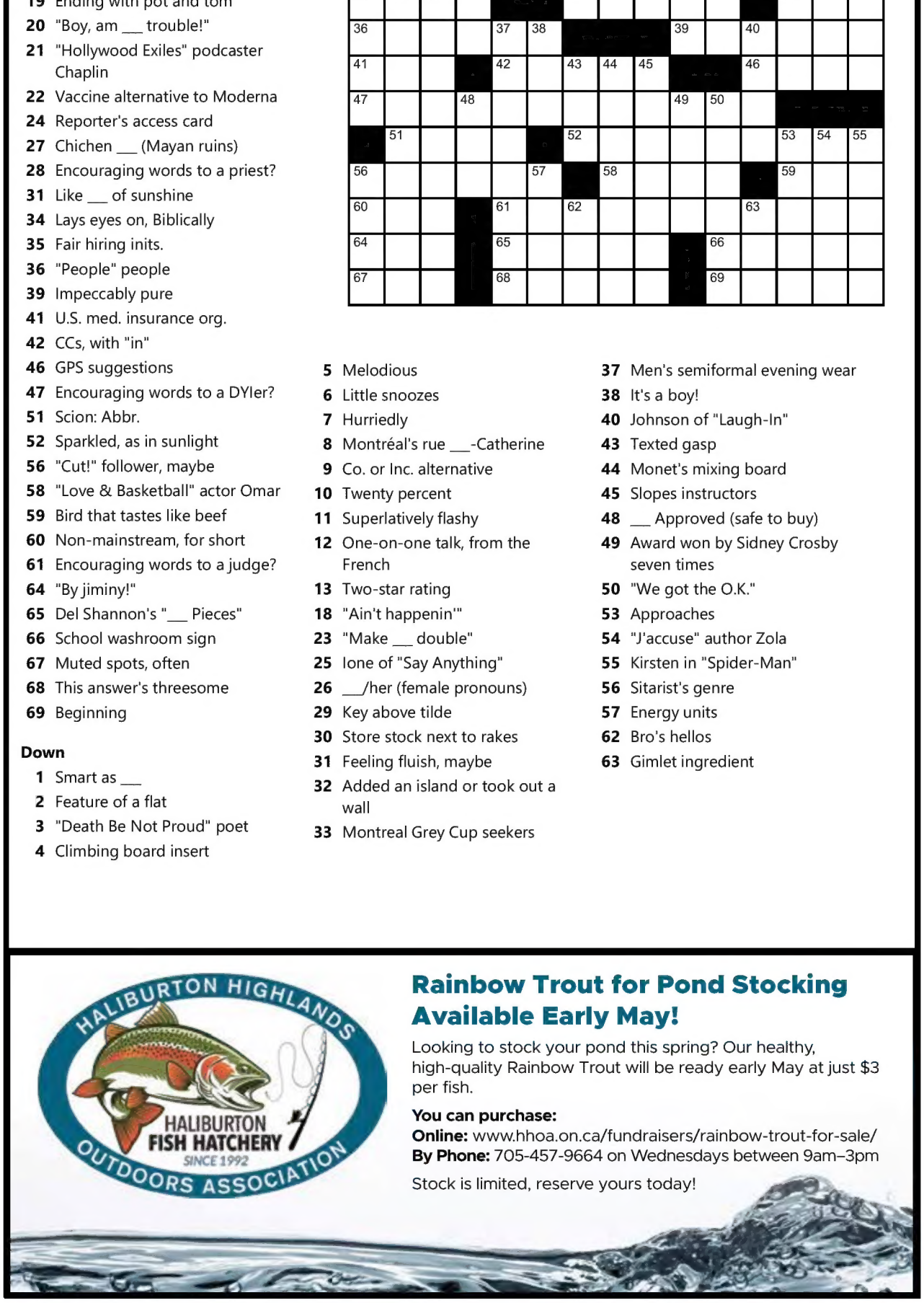


Across

1 Ma ___ Kettle
6 O. Henry "Kid"
11 Indy 500 sponsor
14 Winer and diner
15 "Baywatch" actress Susan
16 Prefix with classical or colonial
17 Encouraging words to a gallery worker?
19 Ending with pot and tom
20 "Boy, am ___ trouble!"
21 "Hollywood Exiles" podcaster Chaplin
22 Vaccine alternative to Moderna
24 Reporter's access card
27 Chichen ___ (Mayan ruins)
28 Encouraging words to a priest?
31 Like ___ of sunshine
34 Lays eyes on, Biblically
35 Fair hiring inits.
36 "People" people
39 Impeccably pure
41 U.S. med. insurance org.
42 CCs, with "in"
46 GPS suggestions
47 Encouraging words to a DYIer?
51 Scion: Abbr.
52 Sparkled, as in sunlight
56 "Cut!" follower, maybe
58 "Love & Basketball" actor Omar
59 Bird that tastes like beef
60 Non-mainstream, for short
61 Encouraging words to a judge?
64 "By jiminy!"
65 Del Shannon's "___ Pieces"
66 School washroom sign
67 Muted spots, often
68 This answer's threesome
69 Beginning

Down

1 Smart as ___
2 Feature of a flat
3 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
4 Climbing board insert
5 Melodious
6 Little snoozes
7 Hurriedly
8 Montréal's rue ___-Catherine
9 Co. or Inc. alternative
10 Twenty percent
11 Superlatively flashy
12 One-on-one talk, from the French
13 Two-star rating
18 "Ain't happenin'"
23 "Make ___ double"
25 Ione of "Say Anything"
26 ___/her (female pronouns)
29 Key above tilde
30 Store stock next to rakes
31 Feeling fluish, maybe
32 Added an island or took out a wall
33 Montreal Grey Cup seekers
37 Men's semiformal evening wear
38 It's a boy!
40 Johnson of "Laugh-In"
43 Texted gasp
44 Monet's mixing board
45 Slopes instructors
48 ___ Approved (safe to buy)
49 Award won by Sidney Crosby seven times
50 "We got the O.K."
53 Approaches
54 "J'accuse" author Zola
55 Kirsten in "Spider-Man"
56 Sitarist's genre
57 Energy units
62 Bro's hellos
63 Gimlet ingredient



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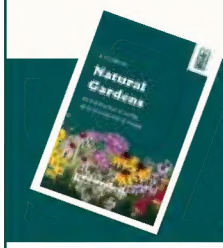

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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			1	8			7	

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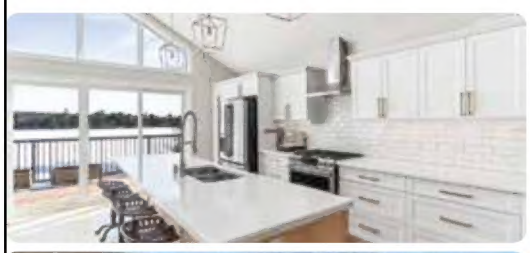
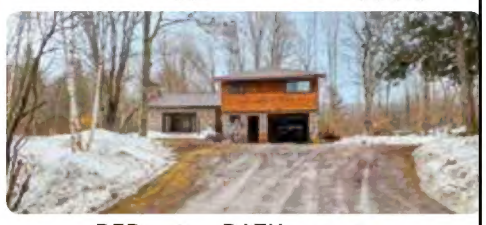
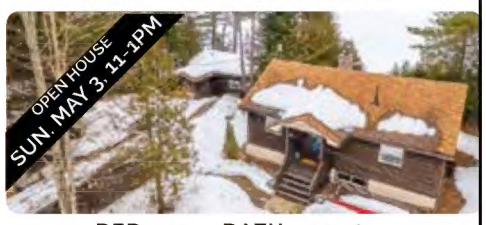


HIGHWAY 35, MINDEN $999,900



BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

GOODERHAM LAKE $925,000

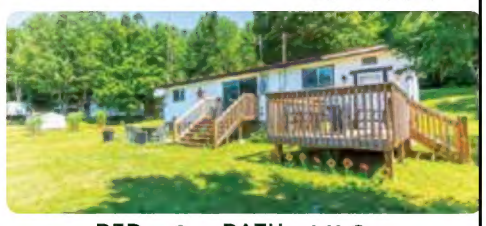


BED 5+1 | BATH 4.5 | MLS #X12954018

BASSHAUNT LAKE RD
$529,900

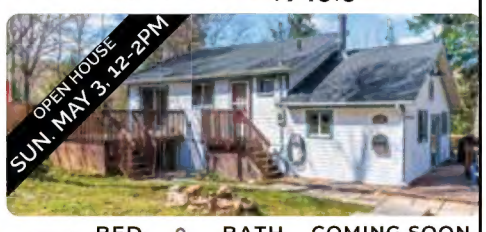
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13005862

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35 $499,900



BED 4 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LONG LAKE $749,900



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Baumgartner Realty Group demonstrated remarkable efficiency throughout the sale of my property. Linda maintained open lines of communication, regularly updating me on every step of the process. Her approach ensured that I always felt informed and engaged, making the entire experience smooth and reassuring.

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